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LIST OF CLAIMS, SHOWING THE STATUS OF EACH CLAIM

Underlining denotes added text while strikethrough denotes deleted text.

1. (Currently Amended) A process for enhanced secretion of a polypeptide ~~in~~ by bacteria, comprising:
 - (a) culturing bacterial cells that contain a recombinant expression vector comprising a first DNA sequence encoding a polypeptide that can be secreted by the bacteria and a second DNA sequence encoding a charged, amino-acid tag covalently bonded at the carboxy-terminus of said polypeptide, such that the polypeptide is produced by the cells, and wherein said tag comprises one or two negatively charged amino acid residues; and
 - (b) optionally, recovering the polypeptide from the culture medium.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said tag comprises at least two negatively charged amino acid residues or at least two positively charged amino acid residues.
4. (Original) The process of claim 3, wherein said tag comprises two negatively charged amino acid residues, selected from the group consisting of D and E.
5. (Original) The process of claim 4, wherein said tag comprises two D residues.
6. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 3, wherein said tag comprises two positively charged amino acid residues, wherein said two positively charged amino acid residues are lysines (Ks), selected from the group consisting of K and N.
7. (Cancelled)

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8. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein said bacteria is a *Bacillus* species.
9. (Original) The process of claim 8, wherein said bacteria is *B. subtilis*.
10. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein said expression vector further includes a DNA sequence encoding a signal peptide operatively linked to said first DNA sequence.
11. (Original) The process of claim 10, wherein said signal peptide is *B. licheniformis* α-amylase (AmyL) signal peptide.
12. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide is a heterologous protein selected from the group consisting of hormones, enzymes, and growth factors.
13. (Original) The process of claim 12, wherein said protein is human interleukin.
14. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing the secretion of a heterologous polypeptide in by a *Bacillus* species, comprising: substituting one or more of the C-terminal amino acids residues of said polypeptide with at least one charged amino acid residue, or adding one or more charged amino acid residues to the C-terminus of said polypeptide, wherein the number of amino acid residues substituted or added to the C-terminus of said polypeptide comprises two amino acid residues.
15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the last two amino acid residues of said polypeptide are substituted with a D.
16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the last two amino acid residues of said polypeptide are substituted with a E.
17. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the last two amino acid residues of said polypeptide are substituted with a K.

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18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein two D residues are added at the C-terminus of said polypeptide.

20. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein two E residues are added at the C-terminus of said polypeptide.

21. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein two K residues are added at the C-terminus of said polypeptide.

Claims 22-52. (Cancelled)